

HOUSE RESOLUTION 274

By Vaughn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Ralph Yelton for his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ralph Yelton is one such legislator whose illustrious career in the House of Representatives extended from 1977 to 1990 during seven General Assemblies, as he represented House District 69 in the 90th Assembly and House District 3 in the 91st through 96th Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, born on July 17, 1926, in Red Hill, North Carolina, to Monroe and Mae Yelton, Representative Yelton grew up on the family's farm in the mountains of western North Carolina near Bakersville; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Ralph Yelton moved to Detroit, Michigan, to work in a steel mill; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's greatest generation, Representative Yelton answered the call of duty during World War II and served in the United States Army from 1944 to 1947 as a Sergeant in the 9th Infantry Division; the great courage and gallantry with which he performed his duties in combat across Europe earned him the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot ever-willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, Ralph Yelton joined the active reserve after his service in World War II and was called back to active duty in the Army to serve in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951; for heroically giving of his blood on behalf of our Nation, he earned the Purple Heart Award with an Oak Leaf Cluster; and

WHEREAS, Representative Yelton graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in both Accounting and Economics; and

WHEREAS, following his college graduation, Representative Ralph Yelton worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Abernathy-Thomas Engineering; consistently evincing impeccable integrity and a unique, positive attitude throughout his career and many experiences, Representative Yelton emerged a skilled community leader; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Ralph Yelton, his constituents first elected him to represent them in 1976; during his seven terms and fourteen years in the House of Representatives, Representative Yelton was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Yelton has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the communities he represented, and he served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ralph Yelton was a dynamic and vital participant in the legislative process and earned the enduring respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he made as Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Transportation Committee and as a member of the Conservation and Environment Committee, the Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee, and the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities as well as the privileges of citizenship, Representative Yelton has served as a valuable member of many civic, professional, and governmental organizations, including Delta Sigma Pi, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Loyal Order of Moose, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; he is also a past Treasurer of the Sullivan County Democratic Party, past Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Committee for the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Human Services, and an Honorary Chairman of the Tennessee Korean War Memorial Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Representative Ralph Yelton received the 1962 Hamilton Economics Award, the 1970 Optimist of the Year Award, the 1978

Colonial Heights Service Club Community Service Award, and the 1982 Sullivan County Education Association Friend of Education Award; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Ralph Yelton is perhaps most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his two children, Sylvia and Claude; and

WHEREAS, Representative Yelton epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud our colleague Ralph Yelton for his unswerving dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Representative Ralph Yelton for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as both a member of the General Assembly and a valued member of his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House Districts 3 and 69.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Ralph Yelton our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Yelton as a token of our esteem.